

1 (11. (Amended) A support arm assembly, comprising:
2 a table mount adapted to be secured to the table;
3 a first linkage coupled to said table mount;
4 a second linkage pivotally coupled to said first linkage;
5 a third linkage pivotally coupled to said second linkage;
6 an end effector pivotally coupled to said third linkage and having a jaw member with
7 an adjustable spring force; and,
8 a heart stabilizer held by said jaw member of said end effector.

The applicant has attached an edited version of the amended claims as an Appendix.

REMARKS

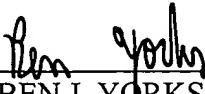
The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobrovolny in view of Green and Jackson. The Examiner states that Jackson would teach one skilled in the art to provide an adjustable spring force on a clamp. The applicant has amended the claims to positively recite a heart stabilizer that is held by a jaw with an adjustable spring force. As amended the claims are clearly in the medical device arts. The Jackson reference makes no suggestion to use the disclosed clamp in a medical system. The applicant submits that one skilled in medical arts would not look to Jackson when designing a support arm assembly with a heart stabilizer. For this reason the applicant states that the prior art does not render obvious claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-20.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-20 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

Dated: January 27, 2003

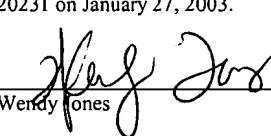


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Wendy Jones

1/27/03

Date

APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended as follows.

1 1. (Amended) A support arm assembly[for a heart stabilizer], comprising:
2 a table mount;
3 an arm coupled to said table mount; [and,]
4 an end effector coupled to said arm, said end effector having a jaw member with an
5 adjustable spring force; and,
6 a heart stabilizer held by said jaw member of said end effector.

1 11. (Amended) A support arm assembly[for coupling a heart stabilizer to a
2 table], comprising:
3 a table mount adapted to be secured to the table;
4 a first linkage coupled to said table mount;
5 a second linkage pivotally coupled to said first linkage;
6 a third linkage pivotally coupled to said second linkage; [and,]
7 an end effector pivotally coupled to said third linkage and [adapted to be coupled to
8 the heart stabilizer, said end effector] having a jaw member with an adjustable spring force;
9 and,
10 a heart stabilizer held by said jaw member of said end effector.